# A U G U S T

at the

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

AUGUST MEETING

Date: Wednesday, August 14, 8:15 p.m.
Place: Morrison Auditorium
Speaker: Geza de Rosner
Subject: "EASTER ISLAND"

As guest of Chile and the people of Easter Island, Geza de Rosner, prominent in motion pictures as producer, director, writer, cameraman, editor, has documented the land of Aku-Aku in color. Called Rapa Nui by Polynesians, Easter Island, "the world's most remote corner", is twenty-two hundred miles from the nearest mainland, and sixteen hundred from the closest inhabited island, Pitcairn. Discovered by Admiral Roggeveen in 1722, the island's only scheduled contact with the outside world is a yearly supply ship sent by the government of Chile, its protector.

Without taking sides, Mr. de Rosner comments on the interesting scientific controversy as to just where did the natives, of which there are now about 1,000, originally come from? One group claims that Asiatics were the first settlers, arriving in the eastern-most outpost of Polynesia somewhere around 1500 A.D. The other, led by Thor Heyerdahl of Kon Tiki fame, insists that the white-skinned Indians, the Orejons of South America, were already on Rapa Nui one thousand years before the Polynesians arrived.

The island's strange history comes to life in Mr. de Rosner's authoritatively narrated film.

MORRISON PLANETARIUM

Through Labor Day, September 2, Morrison Planetarium is presenting its great summer spectacular, "LIFE ON OTHER WORLDS?", a sky show which is already breaking attendance records in San Francisco's Theatre of the Stars.

This presentation incorporates many breathtaking effects including five 360° panoramas of other worlds and the exciting use of the "zoomagic telescope", a special device created in the Academy's Instrument Shop.

Performances daily at 11:30 a.m., and 1:00, 2:15, and 3:30 p.m. Evening performances at 8:30 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. The planetarium is closed Monday nights. Admission: Adults, 75¢, Juniors, 40¢.

SPECIAL EXHIBITS

Exhibit of the Month: "CALIFORNIA GRIZZLY BEAR" from the Academy collections. Main Foyer, Science Museum.

"ASIAN ALBUM", a photographic record in both black-and-white and color of Dr. Edward S. Ross' recent insect collecting trip through tropical Asia continues through the summer in Lovell White Hall of Man and Nature.

## NEWS and NOTES .....

At the monthly meeting held June 17, the Nominating Committee of the Board of Trustees presented the following roster of nominees to serve on the Board for the next five years: Mr. Kenneth K. Bechtel, Mr. William R. Hewlett, Mr. J. W. Mailliard III, Mr. Wilson Meyer and Mr. H. P. Stewart.

These nominations will be acted upon at the 1963 Annual Meeting scheduled for Wednesday evening, October 2.

The attendance at the newly renovated Steinhart Aquarium during the first ten days of its reopening exceeded all expectations. From 11:00 a.m. Friday June 28th until 5:00 p.m. on July 7, 212,344 persons came to Golden Gate Park to vie for parking places, throng the Academy quadrangle and literally mass in the halls of the Aquarium. The first weekend found 70,219 visitors marvelling at the wonder and the beauty in the 178 display tanks, 28,487 persons attending on Sunday alone.

On Fourths of July during the past ten years, the attendance at the Academy held between 11,000 and 13,000 individuals. This year's Fourth witnessed 25,232 people crossing over the counting machines, a staggering increase indeed.

Though obvious and perhaps redundant, it can safely be said that Steinhart Aquarium's reopening was and continues an unqualified success.

Dr. Benjamin Banta, Research Biologist in the Department of Herpetology during the past three years, has left the Academy to accept a teaching position in the Department of Zoology at Colorado College, Colorado Springs.

RECENT SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS OF THE CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Occasional Papers

"Oil Seepages on the Arctic Coastal Plain, Alaska". G Dallas Hanna. No. 38. July 10, 1963. 50¢

"The Genus Calotarsa, with Special Reference to C. insignis Aldrich (Diptera: Platypezidae)". Edward L. Kessel. No. 39. July 10, 1963. 75¢

"A New Species of Giant Lima from off Southern California (Mollusca: Pelecypodâ)". Leo G. Hertlein. No. 40. July 10, 1963. 25¢

"Pastures of the Sea". W. A. Clemens. No. 41. July 10, 1963. 25¢

In the Hall of Astronomy, visitors will now find the most recent addition to the permanent exhibits in that area of the Academy. A heliostat located on the roof projects an image of the sun on a large viewing screen in the Astronomy Hall. The projected solar image shows the photosphere which is the apparent surface of the sun. The most conspicuous features of the photosphere are the dark areas called sunspots.

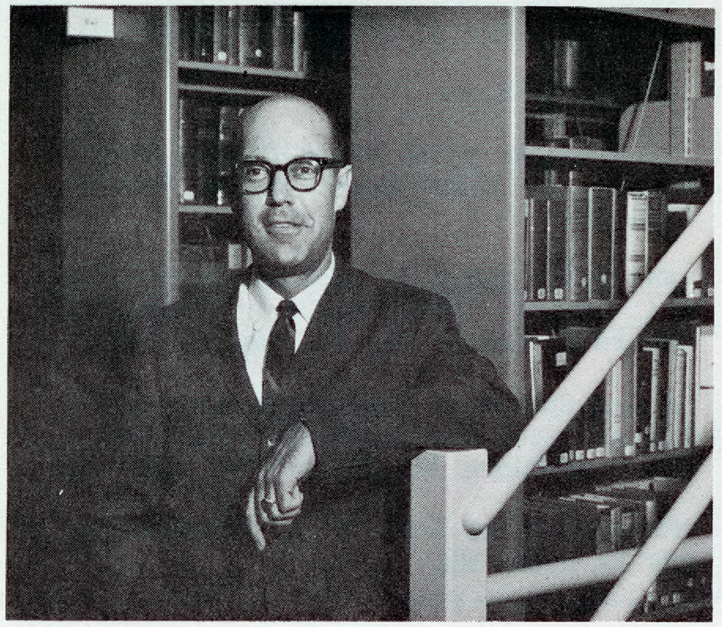
This newest innovation was established in time to make interesting viewing of the July 20 solar eclipse.

Distinguished visitors to the Department of Herpetology during July for consultation with Curator Dr. Alan E. Leviton and an examination of the Department collections were: Dr. Heinz Wermuth, Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde, Arsenal-Kaserne, Germany; Dr. Walter Hellmich, Director, Zoologisches Staatsmuseum des Bayerischen Staates, Germany; Dr. Joan Robb, Professor of Zoology, University of Auckland, New Zealand; Dr. Gaston Fr. de Witte, Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles, Bruxelles, Belgium; Dr. Edward H. Taylor, University of Kansas at Lawrence; and Dr. Richard Highton of the University of Maryland.

The search for "flat-footed" flies (Platypezidae) is a continuing quest for Dr. Edward L. Kessel, Associate Curator of the Department of Entomology and Chairman of the Biology Department at the University of San Francisco. During the month of June, he, with Mrs. Kessel, travelled some 4,000 miles through

(Continued on reverse)

# Meet the Staff



RAY BRIAN, recently appointed Associate Librarian of the J. W. Mailliard, Jr. Memorial Library, is a native Californian, born in Stockton and educated in Berkeley. A scholarship to the University of California from Berkeley High School was interrupted by wartime service in the Army Air Force. At war's end, he returned to UC, receiving his Master's in 1952 and his graduate degree in library science in 1953.

The two ensuing years found him employed in the library at the University of California in Los Angeles. After this brief interval, he returned to the Bay Area and became engaged temporarily in personnel work for the Civil Service Commission and the State Personnel Board in Sacramento. However, his original interest and preoccupation with libraries came to the fore and he returned to these happy pursuits in 1960.

Two compatible positions occurred for him almost simultaneously. Part of his time was spent as librarian at the Berkeley Public Library; the other, as Research Librarian for Hyman Laboratories, Inc. The latter is a non-commercial research organization engaged primarily in petroleum research. Mr. Brian's interest in foreign languages served him excellently in this position for which both reading and translating in French and German were integral and important talents.

He is a member of the Special Libraries Association, the American Library Association, the California Library Association, the American Psychological Association and the American Documentation Institute.

Book collecting with the accent on fine printing and fine binding is a separate interest. He enjoys gardening, (particularly the raising of fuchsias and camellias), folk dancing (when he can find the necessary number of dancing folk), and chamber music. He is an enthusiastic explorer of San Francisco's seemingly endless and inviting restaurants.

"Needless to say," he commented, "I am delighted to be at the Academy and associated with such a fine library. This promises a wonderful and gratifying experience".

(NEWS and NOTES continued)

various spots in Arizona, New Mexico and Texas. He returned with 50 specimens and new data on distribution of two species.

During August, the Kessels will embark on a five-week collecting trip through the eastern Rockies of Colorado, parts of Wyoming and Montana into Canada, with a parallel swing back through Utah in pursuit of Platypezidae. Dr. Kessel's research is made possible by a National Science Foundation Grant awarded him in 1961.

Feeding schedules in the Steinhart Aquarium are as follows: Dolphins dine Tuesday through Sunday at 10:30 a.m., and 12:30, 2:30 and 4:30 p.m. (Isn't it interesting that they are forced to observe their fast on Mondays?) Alligators queue up at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Friday and Sunday. General fish feeding occurs at 1:30 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

## NEW MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMY

### Regular Membership

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Mr. Cedric W. Stine
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Van Worley

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